

## INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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1. The principal causes of the low morale of the Bulgarian people are the marginal standard of living on low pay, and the lack of freedom.
2. Moral discomfort is especially felt by the various classes of intellectuals who consider themselves the most exploited. Their pay does not compensate for the long years of study and sacrifice which a degree or diploma entails. Physicians are forced to serve the country in hospitals, clinics, and infirmaries, with very little chance to practice privately. They earn 700 to 800 leva a month. Lawyers fees are fixed by government at a maximum of 1,500 leva a month after many years of practice. The great majority of lawyers, however, do not earn over 800 to 1,000 leva monthly, and beginners barely earn 500 or 600 leva. Engineers who direct factories, companies, plants, etc., are paid 1,100 to 1,200 leva a month, which is often less than a skilled worker earns by overtime.
3. The poor morale of these professional men affects their efficiency, since they are constantly in financial difficulties. Freedom is lacking in two ways: private enterprise is suffocated so that individuals cannot develop their abilities, and personal freedom is curbed by police and party political control. Political directors are aware of this situation and have tried to brake the spread of ill feeling among the masses.
4. At the close of the past Communist Party Congress it was assured that living conditions for all would improve, since the goals for heavy industry during the period from the end of World War II up to the present have been met. The national income has consequently increased, so it is claimed, and the greater availability of money will bring wages up to a par with the cost of living. There is, however, no consistent provision to execute these promises. In fact only fictitious price cuts have been made on food, and a few other articles. Although the price is cut, the quality is poorer. Bread is now graded as either white or black, respectively first and second class. The first class price was slightly lowered, and the second class price was raised, but the black bread is now inedible.

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5. Although the facts of the matter can easily be checked and the citizens realize that they are being duped, the government insists on painting a rosy picture and promising a future of ease, which of course no one believes. Comparisons are officially made with domestic statistics referred to in the year 1939, rather than to later years. The entire masquerade only increases bitterness, lowers morale and absenteeism by the masses.
6. It is thought that very few of those in the Communist Party ranks are still faithful to the ideals of Marx, and that the great majority is made up of opportunists who through political cativity have succeeded in reaching and maintaining positions of privilege, or at least manage to live well, with no contingent troubles. Enrollment in the party is nothing but a pass to obtain a better place, or to work less with equal pay.
7. This form of conniving and loss of ideals has come about through lack of faith in government planning, broken promises to the people, and the sense of oppression felt by all. Unfortunately, the younger generation are in favor of Marxism since they lack discernment through comparison to reject the "new order".
8. One of the most convincing demonstrations of the masses' insufferance of Communism is seen in the great number of churchgoers. The people take this passive form of resistance with the weak hope that the situation will change. It is now a widespread conviction that only a war can radically change the situation, and further, that war is not in the offing. Generally speaking, however, war is not desired.
9. Schools for labor reserves have been established and may be attended by graduates of high schools who wish to specialize in one of many endeavors. The courses vary in length from one to two years. There are 90 of these schools in Bulgaria, with one or more in each of the principal cities. There are nine or ten of them in Sofia. The courses begin in the month of January each year. The enrollment is 150 to 200, depending on the facilities, type of course, etc.
10. Admission is limited to deserving young men of proper political hue, studiousness, etc. In case of equal candidates, the less moneyed are always selected. Room, board, clothing, books and equipment are supplied free. The students wear a sort of uniform cut like a civilian suit, consisting of blue wool in the winter and olive green cloth in the summer.
11. Upon completion of the course, those who pass the exams are sent to work in factories, shops, etc., at their own specialty and are paid according to their specialty.

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